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Title:

Handwritten radio script regarding 'current crisis in Laos and the activities of the U.S.A.'
and 'the foreign policy of the Labor Party'.

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Doc Ref: 3449 (1)

A.L.P - D.A.D. - 5KA

09/01/1961

Good evening,

The current crisis in Laos and the activities of the U.S.A both before & during the crisis afford a god illustration of the foreign policy of the Labor party as stated by its Federal conferences in recent years.

At the 21st conference in Hobart the A.L.P said :-

Read pars. 3, 4, 5, 6. P.81

At the 22nd conference in Brisbane is said, after reoffering what I have just read,

Para. 6. P.53.

The whole point is this. The people of Asia for the most part are but little interested in the ideological conflict between communism and capitalism. They are interested in having an effective say in their own future, in ending exploitation, not only by foreigner's but buy their own reactionaries, in improving living standards & education.

Therefore, if we do not want the conflicts which develop in Asian countries to benefit the aims of world communism, & if we want to discharge our own world obligation to developing Asian countries, we must be extraordinarily careful about whom we support, assist within those countries. This is not only a counsel we should heed ourselves, but one which we should urge upon our allies.

For if we or our allies see fit to lend assistance to reactionary and/or corrupt and/or anti-democratic forces within an Asian country merely because those forces are anti-Communist, it will almost certainly be the best way not of fighting but of assisting Communists.

If we or our allies become associated in the minds of Asians with the forces of reaction, corruption, of repression, then Asian people who are not communists and should be our friends will be likely to turn to Communism as the only feasible alternative to the forces whom we would be supporting, and whom those people would often regard as more evil than the Communists.

How this can happen the Labor Party illustrated in the declarations I have read.

Now let us look at the situation in Laos.

The present Government in Laos is a rebel Govt. supported by the U.S.A. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the previous Govt. headed by Prince Souranna Phouma & which designed to bring a neutralist peace to Laos was not only disliked by the U.S.A, but the U.S.A gave material support to its opponents, the present Govt. which came to power by a coup d'état.

There cannot be any doubt either, that the present Govt. represents a right wing point of view.

The reports which have come from Laos of Viet. Minh & Chinese interaction have been widely called into question, and it is as well for us that this attempt by the Laotian Govt. to embroil the SEATO powers in what could become a world war has failed. But the danger in this situation not only comes from Laotian provocation & the U.S. sabre rattling.

We as an ally of the U.S.A & a member of SEATO are becoming identified with a force in Laos with which no democrat could be satisfied and which is likely, on

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what information is available to us, only to strengthen the forces adhering to the pro-Communist Pathet Lao and to alienate from the SEATO powers those non-Communist groups inclined to support Prince Souvanna Phouma.

In other words, in the name and for the avowed purpose of fighting Communism, our allies may well have thrown into the arms of pro-Communist forces those people on whom we might have relied for a non-communist settlement of the troubles in Laos.

The gay pronouncements of Mr Menzies on this subject are as little helpful to Australians cause in world affairs were his previous excursions into bumbledom – his abortive attempt to overawe General Nasser and his hopeless flop of a speech recently before the United Nations.

What a tragedy it is that Australians foreign policy today seems to be historically bound up with Mr Menzies sense of his own theatricality – and with his failures to realise that on the world stage his kind of performance is constantly adjudged that of a ham.

Goodnight

ALP

3449 KA
D.A.D
9/1/61.

Good evening

RECORDED

The current crisis in Laos and the activities of the U.S.A. both before & ~~after~~ during the crisis afford a good illustration of the foreign policy of the Labor party as stated by its Federal conference in recent years. At the 1st conference in H-bart the A.L.P. said:-

Read paras. 3, 4, 5, 6. p. 81.

At the 2nd conference in Brisbane it said, after reaffirming what I have just read, para. 6. p. 53.

The whole point is this. The people of Asia for the most part are not little interested in the ideological conflict between communism & capitalism. They are interested in having an effective say in their own future, in ending exploitation not only by foreigners but by their own reactionaries, in improving living standards & education.

Therefore, if we do not want the conflicts which develop within Asian countries to benefit the ultimate aims of world communism, & if we want to discharge our own moral obligation to developing Asian countries, we must be extraordinarily careful about whom we support & assist within those countries. This is not only a counsel we should heed ourselves, but one which we should urge upon our allies.

For if we or our allies see fit to lend assistance to reactionary and/or corrupt and/or anti-democratic forces within an Asian country merely because those forces are anti-communist, it will almost certainly be the best way not of fighting but of assisting

Communists. If we or our allies become associated in the minds of Asians with the force of reaction, corruption, of repression, then Asian peoples who are not Communists and should be our friends will be likely to turn to Communism as the only feasible alternative to the forces whom we would be supporting, and whom these people would often regard as more evil than the Communists.

How this can happen the Labor Party illustrated in its declarations I have read.

Now let us look at the situation in Laos. The present Government in Laos is a rebel Govt. supported by the U.S.A. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the previous government headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma & which designed to bring a neutralist peace to Laos was not only disliked by the U.S.A., but that the U.S.A. gave moral support to its opponents, the present Govt. which came to power by a coup d'état. There cannot be any doubt either, that the present Govt. represents a right-wing ~~reactionary~~ viewpoint.

The reports which have come from Laos of Viet-minh & Chinese intervention have been widely called in question, and it is as well for us that this attempt by the Laotian Govt. to embroil the SEATO powers in what could become a world war has failed. But the danger in the situation not only comes from Laotian provocation & the U.S. Sabre-rattling. We are an ally of the U.S.A. & a member of S.E.A.T.O. one becoming identified with a force in Laos with which no democrat could be satisfied & which is likely, on

what information is available to us, only to strengthen the forces adhering to the pro-Communist Pathet Lao and to alienate from the S.E.A.T.O. powers those non-Communist groups inclined to support Prince Souvanna Phouma.

In other words, in the name and for the avowed purpose of fighting Communism, our allies may well have been thrown into the arms of pro-Communist forces those people on whom we might have relied for a non-Communist settlement of the troubles in Laos.

The gay pronouncements of Mr. Menzies on this subject are as little helpful to Australia's cause in world affairs as were his previous excursions into bumbledom - his abortive attempt to oust General Nasser & his hopeless flop of a speech recently before the United Nations.

What a tragedy it is that Australia's foreign policy today seems to be tightly bound up with Mr. Menzies' sense of his own theatricality - and with his failure to realise that on the world stage his kind of performance is constantly adjudged that of a ham.

Goodbye etc.